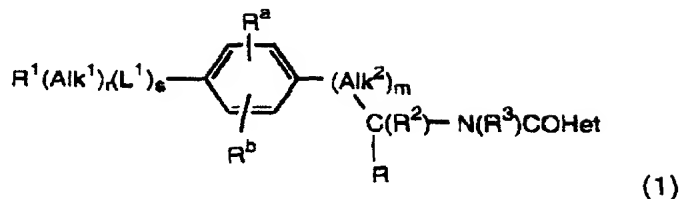


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (1)



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wherein

R is a carboxylic acid or a derivative thereof;

- 10 R¹ is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl, straight or branched alkoxy or optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, polyheterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

Alk¹ is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

L¹ is a linker atom or group;

- 15 r and s, which may be the same or different, is each zero or an integer 1 provided that when r is zero R¹ is an optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, polyheterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

- 20 R^a and R^b, which may be the same or different is each an atom or group -L²(CH₂)_pL³(R^c)_q in which L² and L³ is each a covalent bond or a linker atom or group, p is zero or the integer 1, q is an integer 1, 2 or 3 and R^c is a hydrogen or halogen atom or a group selected from straight or branched alkyl, -OR^d [where R^d is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched alkyl group], -SR^d, -NR^dR^e, [where R^e is as just defined for R^d and may be the same or different], -NO₂, -CN, -CO₂R^d,
 25 -SO₃H, -SO₂R^d, -OCO₂R^d, -CONR^dR^e, -OCONR^dR^e, -CSNR^dR^e, -COR^d, -N(R^d)COR^e, N(R^d)CSR^e, -SO₂N(R^d)(R^e), -N(R^d)SO₂R^e, -N(R^d)CONR^eR^f [where R^f is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched alkyl group], -N(R^d)CSNR^eR^f or -N(R^d)SO₂NR^eR^f;

Alk² is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

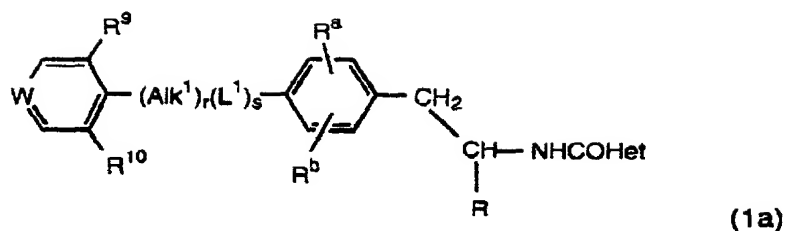
- 30 m is zero or an integer 1;

R² is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

R³ is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group;

Het is an optionally substituted heteroaromatic group;
and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Het is an optionally substituted C₃₋₅ monocyclic heteroaromatic group containing one, two or three heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen atoms.
3. A compound according to Claim 2 wherein Het is an optionally substituted pyrrolyl or pyridyl group.
4. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein R is a -CO₂H group.
5. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Alk² is a -CH₂- chain and is an integer 1.
6. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein each of R² and R³ is a hydrogen atom.
7. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein R¹ is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group.
8. A compound according to Claim 7 wherein R¹ is an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl or pyrimidinyl group.
9. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein -(Alk¹)_r(L¹)_s is a -CH₂O-, -SO₂NH-, -C(O)O- or -CON(R⁴)- group.
10. A compound according to Claim 9 wherein -(Alk¹)_r(L¹)_s is a -CONH- group.
11. A compound according to Claim 1 which has the formula (1a):



wherein -W= is -CH= or -N=, R^9 and R^{10} , which may be the same or different is each a $-L^2(CH_2)_pL^3(R^c)_q$ atom or group as generally and particularly defined above, and Alk^1 , r , L^1 , s , R^a , R^b , R and Het are as generally and particularly defined above, and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

12. A compound according to Claim 11 wherein Het is an optionally substituted pyrrolyl or pyridyl group.

13. A compound according to Claim 1 which is:
 2-Thio(S-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)nicotinoyl-(N-2,6-dichlorobenzoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine;
 2-Thio(S-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)nicotinoyl-(N-2,6-dichlorobenzoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine;
 N-(3,5-Dichloro-4-picolyl)-N'-(3,5-dichloro-4-picolyl)-L-4-amino-phenylalanine;
 N-(2-Chloronicotinoyl)-N'-(3,5-dichloro-4-picolyl)-L-4-amino-phenylalanine;
 O-(2,6-dichlorobenzyl)-N-(4-acetyl-1,2,5-trimethyl-3-pyrrolyl)-L-tyrosine;
 (N'-3,5-Dichloroisonicotinoyl)-N-([3-pyridinylmethyl]thio)isonicotinoyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine;
 N-(4-Acetyl-1,2,5-trimethyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carbonyl)-N'-(3,5-dichloro-4-picolyl)-L-4-aminophenylalanine; and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents.